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A

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
CHARGE

AGAINST
MATTHEW VVREN,
BISHOP OF ELY;

To the house of COMMONS,
The fifth of July, 1641.

Pus atq. Venenum

LONDON,
Printed for Francis Constable,
1641.

REPORT

OF THE
COMMITTEE

OF THE
CHARGE

AGAINST
THE NEW YORK

SHOP OF ELY

OF THE
COMMONS

LONDON
Printed by J. Smith, Strand

1841

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A
REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE,
OF THE
CHARGE
AGAINST
MATTHEW WREN,
BISHOP OF ELY;
To the House of COMMONS,
The Fifth of July, 1641.

Hat hee the said *Matthew Wren* Bishop of *Ely*, hath excommunicated, deprived, or banished, within the space of two yeares, fifty godly, learned, and painfull Ministers.

A 2

2 His

(2.)

2 His practising Superstition in his owne person.

3 His causing the Communion Table to bee placed Altarwise, and to bee railed in; and kneeling and consecrating the Bread and Wine at the west side of the Communion Table, with his back towards the people, and bowing to, or before the same.

4 Elevating the Bread and Wine high over his head, that the people might see it.

5 Causing all the Pews or Seats to be so contrived, as that the people must of necessity kneele with their faces towards the East.

6 Imployed his power to restraine powerfull preaching, forbidding all Sermons on Sundayes afternoone, or in the week dayes without his licence; and left expounding the Catechisme, and Common prayer book should be as bad as preaching, as he, and some of his officers said: Therefore he inhibits any manner of exposition, and enjoynes only the bare Question

Question and Answer in the Common prayer book.

7 And to the end the people shall not know where there are any Sermons, commands all ringing of Bels to be alike; that so the people may not distinguish where there is a Sermon, or where there is but Prayer.

8 He permitted no prayer to be said before Sermon, but that which is directed in the 39 Canon, which hath no warrant of law: and after Sermon suffers no prayer at all, but only *Gloria Patri, &c.*

9 He did publish a book of Articles, to which the Church-wardens were to be sworne; and those 39 Articles containe at least 897 Questions: One whereof was this; Doth any man discourse prophaneely at meale time, touching Religion, or the holy Scripture? Another, Doth the Minister expound the holy Scripture according to the sense of the Ancient Fathers? Which Questions it is belceved would puffle

(4)

the deepest learned Church-wardens in
England to answer.

And after some time spent in the de-
bate of the said Articles, it was resol-
ved upon the Question, and voted;

That it is the opinion of this House,
that *Matthew Wren* Bishop of *Ely*, is
unworthy and unfit to hold or exer-
cise any Office or Dignity in the Church
or Common-wealth. And further vo-
ted, that there bee a message sent to
the Lords to desire them to joync
with the Commons in petiti-
oning his Majesty to remove
Bishop *Wren* both from
his person and
service.

FINIS.

